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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 640
By Cole (Dyer)

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Bill and Ruth Norman on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 1952, William Thomas Norman and Ruth Lynn Bradley were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Norman have been highly respected citizens of the Dyersburg community for many years; they are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, born in Dyersburg on October 10, 1927, Bill Norman later answered the call of duty by joining the United States Army; this American patriot served in the Army until 1948 and thus holds a position of honor among those revered men and women who have defended our nation and our freedom throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, a 1945 graduate of Dyersburg High School, Mr. Norman operated a business in Dyersburg from 1949 until he took a well-deserved retirement in 2001; he earned the respect of his customers for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, possessing extraordinarily talented hands, he taught his children to hunt and fish, and to build or fix most anything; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community, Mr. Norman has been active in the Jaycees and other community organizations, and he has provided invaluable leadership as an organizer and Master of Ceremonies for class reunions and as an officer in two R/C flying clubs; and

WHEREAS, born in Middle City on December 19, 1931, Ruth Norman served with acumen and alacrity at the Dyer County Courthouse and as an employee of City Drug Company until she married, at which time she made the decision to focus her many talents on helping to perpetuate the utmost in family and community values as a homemaker; and

WHEREAS, a 1949 graduate of Dyersburg High School, Mrs. Norman was known as the family disciplinarian, since no one could out run, out jump, or out climb her; she was additionally renowned as an outstanding cook, although one notable exception to that rule was provided by an episode with "Indian Corn Pie"; and

WHEREAS, before becoming Mrs. Norman, Ruth Lynn Bradley once broke her leg at a Boy Scout Day Camp, broke her foot while staging a Veterans' Day Parade, and broke hearts as "Miss Dyersburg"; and

WHEREAS, active in the Dyersburg community, she has participated in the Community Concerts, Garden Club, Bridge Club, and Music Club, often providing astute leadership as an officer; she has also served as a room mother, campaign volunteer, census taker, and class reunion organizer and is very active in Lake Road Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, through the years, the Normans have shared love and companionship and also many interests; and

WHEREAS, together, they have been bowling champions, Dyersburg Little Theatre performers and supporters, Dyer County Fair entrants and judges, and Scout Troop Leaders; sharing a love for celebration and tradition, they built floats for the Dyersburg Christmas Parade for many years and also ensured that birthdays, graduations, or weddings were always properly commemorated; and

WHEREAS, the Norman home has always been considered a refuge for any stray, be it animal or child; none ever left hungry, and all left happier than when they arrived, with one particular feline being the exception; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced four children, Cindy, Lisa, Brad, and Keith, each of whom has excelled in his or her particular field of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the Normans' children have dubbed their parents as "simply the best parents any child could hope for"; and

WHEREAS, the Normans are also the proud and loving grandparents of three cherished grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Normans' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Bill and Ruth Norman on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.